THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, December 4, 1809.

Sketch of the Life of Lieutenant-General Villettes.

THIS officer was descended from one of the most ancient families in France. His ancestors were lords of Montdidier in Languedoc, in the thirteenth century, and many of them held considerable offices under different monarchs. During the civil wars, they were much distinguished for their exertions in favour of the hugonots; and after the revocation of the edict of Nantes they withdrew from France, and settled in this kingdom.

The father of the late lieutenant-general was educated in the diplomatic line, and was many years minister plenipotentiary to the late and the present king; first at the court of Turin, and afterwards with the Helvetic cantons. He withdrew from public life in the year 1762, and resided at Bath 'till 1776, when he died, in the 75th year of his age. His second son, William Anne Villettes, was born at Bern, on the 14th of June, 1754. He received the early part of his education at a private school near Bath, and the latter part of it at the university of St. Andrew's. A mildness of disposition, and a regular performance of whatever it was his duty to do, qualities which through life were distinguished features of his character, were remarkable even at this early period. It was observed at school, that he never received a blow, either from his master, or any of his school-fellows; nor was he ever known at the university to have experienced a reprimand from any of the professors, or to have been engaged in a quarrel with any of his fellow-students. His father originally intended him for the bar, and he

was accordingly entered at Lincoln's-inn, and kept two or three terms; but his ardour for a military life was so great, that Mr. Villettes at last gave way to his son's inclinations, and obtained for him, in the year 1775, a cornetcy in the 10th regiment of dragoons.

In this respectable corps, Villettes continued 'till he rose to the rank of major. In this, as in every other part of his life, a punctual discharge of the duties of his station was constantly observed. By this he obtained the approbation of his superiors, and by his amiable manners he secured the esteem and good will of his equals and his inferiors. During a great part of this period, Captain Villettes attended Sir W. Pitt (then commander of the forces in Ireland) as his aid-de-camp and secretary. The character of that venerable officer requires no panegyric; and it certainly was an honour to Villettes, that he lived several years in his family, not only as his secretary, but as his confidential friend. His attachment to Sir William Pitt was, indeed, that of a son to a parent; and, like all other attachments that he formed, continued invariable to the end of his life.

In the year 1792, Major Villettes quitted the dragoons, and was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the 69th regiment of foot; which, in consequence of the breaking out of the war in 1793, was sent to the Mediterranean, serving as marines on board a division of the fleet under the command of Lord Hood. From this service Colonel Villettes was exempt, as a field officer; but when Toulon was given up to the allies, he left England to take the command of his regiment, then forming a part of the garrison. His services there were much distinguished by General O'Hara, and his successor, General Dundas. The heights of Faron were entrusted to him; and during the time that he commanded in that important station, his vigilance was such, that he never retired to rest 'till day-light appeared. All attempts at surprise were accordingly frustrated, and every thing remained secure; the strength of the position scarcely exposing it to any other danger.

At length, the French army being increased, after the reduction of Lyons, the danger to which Toulon became exposed was proportionably greater, and Colonel Villettes was called to a station of still more importance, and requiring the execution of greater military talents. This was the defence of Les Sablettes, a narrow isthmus, by which the peninsula that forms the south side of the road of Toulon is connected with the main land. As long as this post was in our possession, the whole peninsula was secure, and the ships could remain in safety in the road; but if this had been lost, the various batteries on the peninsula might have been turned upon them, the shipping must have removed into the bay, and the subsequent em-

embarkation of the troops and the inhabitants would have been rendered impracticable.

At this post Colonel Villettes commanded, having under him 700 British, and 800 Neapolitan troops. On the 16th of December, Faron was taken by surprise, but not by the fault of any British officer; and Fort Mulgrave, the nearest post to Les Sablettes, was carried by storm. These disasters rendered the evacuation of Toulon unavoidable. The Neapolitan troops, under the command of Colonel Villettes, behaved very well as long as they were exposed to no danger; but when they saw that Fort Mulgrave was lost, and the French appeared ready to attack them, they retired in a body, got into their boats, and embarked on board their ships. Notwithstanding the desertion of so great a part of his force, Colonel Villettes kept up so good an appearance with the remainder, that Les Sablettes, and, of course, the whole of the peninsula, continued in our possession 'till the evening of the 18th; when the evacuation of Toulon being complete, he received orders to withdraw his troops. This service, though rendered very difficult by the proximity of the enemy, was nevertheless effected during the night; and the troops were marched to the other end of the peninsula, where they were embarked in boats, which conveyed them, without loss, on board the fleet.

The next service in which Colonel Villettes was engaged, was the conquest of Corsica. He acted here in his proper station at the siege of Saint Fiorenzo; and afterwards, in a more distinguished manner, at that of Bastia. Lord Hood having proposed to the commander of the land forces the attack of this latter place, and the measure being deemed inexpedient by that officer, his lordship resolved to undertake the siege, without the assistance of any troops but those who were originally given him as marines.

After a close blockade of forty days, Bastia was taken, and Lord Hood gratefully acknowledged the essential assistance which he received on that occasion from Colonel Villettes. The merit of this service will, perhaps, be more fully appreciated, when it is known, that the force which Colonel Villettes commanded, was composed of no more than 1000 British soldiers, 250 landed seamen, and 1200 Corsicans; which last were fit only to scour the country. The garrison, on the other hand, consisted of 4000 French regulars, and about as many of the armed inhabitants. Even after the surrender of the place, the difficulties of Colonel Villettes' situation did not cease. With his small force he was to guard 8000 prisoners; and this arduous task was continued several days, the state of the weather rendering it impossible to send them away in a shorter time. For this important service Colonel Villettes was rewarded, by being appointed governor of Bastia; and a vote of thanks

to him being proposed in the house of commons, it seemed to be a subject of regret with every person, that some circumstances of parliamentary etiquette rendered it impossible to accede to the motion.

(To be concluded in our next.)

LOCUSTS.

MR. JACKSON, in his account of Morocco, gives a description of those destructive insects, which fully coincides with the affecting picture related in the Old Testament:—

"Locusts are produced from some unknown physical cause, and proceed from the Desert, always coming from the south. When they visit a country, it behoves every individual to lay in a provision against a famine; for they are said to stay three, five, or seven years. During my residence in West and South Barbary, those countries suffered a visitation from them during seven years. They have a government among themselves, similar to that of the bees and ants; and when the (sultan jerraad) king of the locusts, rises, the whole body follow him, not one solitary straggler being left behind to witness the devastation. When they have eaten all other vegetation, they attack the trees, consuming first the leaves, and then the bark; so that the country, in the midst of summer, from their unsparing rapacity, bears the face of winter. In my travels, I have seen them so thick on the ground, as sometimes actually to have covered my horse's hoofs, as he went along; it is very annoying to travel through a host of them, as they are continually flying in your face, and settling on your hands and clothes. At a distance, they appear, in the air, like an immense cloud, darkening the sun; and whilst employed in devouring the produce of the land, it has been observed that they uniformly proceed one way, as regularly as a disciplined army on its march; nor will it be possible to discover a single one going a different way from the rest. In travelling from Mogodor to Tangier, before the plague in 1799, the country was covered with them; a singular incident then occurred at El Araiche; the whole country, from the confines of Sahara to that place, was ravaged by them, but after crossing the river El Kos, they were not to be seen, though there was nothing to prevent them from flying across it; moreover, they were all moving that way, that is to the north; but when they reached the banks of the river, they proceeded eastward, so that the gardens and fields north of El Araiche were full of vegetables, fruits, and grain. The Arabs of the province of El Garb considered this remarkable circumstance as an evident interposition of providence.

"This

"This curse of Heaven can only be conceived by those who have seen the dismal effects of their devastation; the poor people, by living on them, become meagre and indolent, for no labour will yield fruit, whilst the locusts continue increasing in numbers. In the rainy seasons they partially disappear, and at the opening of the spring the ground is covered with their young; those crops of corn which are first mature, and the grain which becomes hardened before the locust attains its full growth, are likely to escape, provided there be other crops less forward for them to feed upon.

"In the year 1799, these destructive insects were carried away into the western ocean by a violent hurricane; and the shores were afterwards covered with their dead bodies, which in many places emitted a pestilential smell; that is, wherever the land was low, or where the salt water had not washed them. To this event succeeded a most abundant crop of corn, the lands which had lain fallow for years, being now cultivated; but the produce of the cultivation was accompanied with a most infectious and deadly plague, a calamity of which the locusts have often been observed to be the forerunners."

LOSS *of the* LARK SLOOP *of* WAR.

THE following detail of this unfortunate event, which happened on the 3d of August, is taken from the depositions of the three men who were saved from that vessel.

Statement of William Dobson.—The Lark anchored at Palenque in the evening of the 2d of August, and continued at anchor until five o'clock the next morning, when it came on to blow hard from the northward, and obliged us to cut our best bower cable, and stand out to sea. At about nine o'clock the fore-sail and fore-top-mast stay-sail blew to pieces in a most violent squall, which came rather a-head, and at the same time a tremendous sea broke over the larboard quarter, which completely filled the ship, when she fell over upon the starboard beam ends, and instantly sunk; no other vessel in company. I immediately got hold of a piece of plank, which I found in the water. In about an hour after I observed two men, who proved to be John Gordon, the cooper, and John Antonio, a Spaniard, who were also on planks, and we continued together until seven o'clock in the evening, when we were picked up by the Moselle.

John Gordon deposed, that after the Lark had been struck by the sea, he ran upon deck, and observed the captain and officers standing upon the quarter-deck; the captain gave orders to haul the foresail up; but the clue garnets gave way, and the

sail

blew to pieces; at this time the ship was laying on her starboard beam ends, and filling fast; in about five minutes after the sea struck her, she sunk.

John Antonio further states, that he jumped overboard and swam to a piece of plank; at this time the captain was close alongside of him in the water, but he lost sight of him almost immediately afterwards, when he supposes him to have sunk. They all concur in stating that none but themselves can possibly have been saved.

The brave but unfortunate Captain Robert Nicholas, the commander of the Lark, served the greater part of his time as midshipman with Admiral Harvey in the Valiant, and afterwards with the Hon. Captain Legge in the Cambrian, and went first to the Mediterranean station, by Lord St. Vincent's appointment, as lieutenant of the Bittern, in which ship he distinguished himself, by a most persevering pursuit of some of the enemies' boats, with a very inferior force, in an open row-boat, 'till they escaped him, and his gallant little crew, nearly exhausted with fatigue, by entering the harbour of Syracuse. He next went to Jamaica as first-lieutenant of the Arethusa, from which ship he was made commander into the Drake, and soon afterwards removed into the Lark, in the early command of which he shewed the greatest skill and intrepidity in a desperate conflict with two guarda costas, and in a subsequent action with gun-boats and armed vessels in Zispata bay, in which his personal bravery was particularly conspicuous in leading his men to board the Spaniard, in the execution of which duty he received several wounds. Upon Sir Charles Brisbane's departure from Curacoa, Captain Nicholas succeeded to the temporary government of that island, and upon the arrival of the new governor was appointed to settle the Tariff with the Caracca Islands; in this he displayed so much address and ability, that he received the unanimous thanks of the merchants trading to that island and the Caraccas.

Captain Nicholas had just entered the 28th year of his age. He was the second son of Mr. Nicholas, formerly member for Cricklade, and grandson of the late Admiral Sir Thomas Frankland; and it is very remarkable, that in a similar manner, and on the same station, not many years ago, also perished with Commodore Boyle Walsingham, in the Thunderer, Captain Boyle Nicholas, who was another of the family of Sir Edward Nicholas, secretary of state to Charles the First and Second.

IRISH HUMANITY.

A Short time since, a slater, named Kerns, fell from a brewery in Drogheda, and was unfortunately killed on

the spot. He was the only support of an aged mother, a wife, and a young family. So reduced were they by this calamity, that they lost even the hopes of deriving any benefit from the sustenance his industry had provided for the severity of the approaching winter; but no sooner were their neighbours informed of their situation, than between sixty and a hundred persons from Crooked-street, Drogheda, repaired to the field where their little crop was, and in a few hours not only dug their potatoes, but by a little subscription amongst themselves, paid the rent of the ground and dwelling, and conveyed the winter's support home to the cottage of this disconsolate family.

INTERESTING TRIAL.

COURT of KING's BENCH, MONDAY, November 20.

An important Game Cause.

VERE *v.* LORD CAWDOR AND ANOTHER.

THIS was an action for damages, on account of the defendant's game-keeper having shot and killed the plaintiff's dog.

The plea was, that the defendant, Lord Cawdor, was lord of the manor, at Kidwelly, in the county of Carmarthen, and that the other defendant was his lordship's game-keeper; that the plaintiff's dog came upon the manor, and was following a hare, and might then and there have killed the said hare; and the game-keeper shot the said dog, as it was lawful for him to do. To which plea there was a demurrer.

Lord Ellenborough, by way of shewing the absurdity of this plea, said—"I think the plea does not justify the conduct of the game-keeper; is it to be endured that a man's dog, or any other animal, shall be shot because he follows a hare, without stating in the justification of killing that dog it was necessary to kill it; or that the dog belonged to an unqualified person, and was pursuing game unlawfully. All this, or some of this, was surely necessary to be stated."

Mr. Scarlett quoted several cases as analagous to this plea, and one, from the precedent of which this plea had been actually drawn.

Lord Ellenborough.—"Upon this plea, the question is, whether a dog incurs the penalty of death, for running after a hare, on the manor of another. The case, upon this plea, has nothing to do with property in game, nor with any right that may

may be delegated, by a lord of the manor, or any other qualified person, to a game-keeper; but it is the simple case of one animal running after another; and the question is, if a question it can be called, whether the animal so pursuing another, may legally be killed, without stating that the act of killing him was necessary. If there be a precedent for such a plea as this, it is a precedent against common reasoning and common sense, and the sooner it is overturned the better. It is a precedent, from which the eyes of those who are engaged in drawing pleadings, may properly be averted."

Judgment for the plaintiff.

Account of the Oran Otan, and Chimpanzee.

By the Rev. W. Bingley, not inserted in Animal Biography.

FOR the purpose of making a proper distinction betwixt these two animals, it must be observed, that the colour of the oran otan is usually a ferruginous or reddish-brown, that of the chimpanzee is dark brown, or blackish. The former, when full grown, is from five to six feet in height, and the latter from two and a half, to three feet. The face of each is naked of hair, and has a rude resemblance to the human countenance. The facial angle is, however, considerably more acute, and consequently the forehead is more thrown back, than in any human subject. The hands and feet have a near resemblance to those of men, except that, in the latter, the toes are so long and flexible, as to be capable of grasping solid bodies, in the same manner as the hands. In each of these animals, the hair of the fore-arm is reversed, or stands with the ends backward.

The oran otan is a native of the forests of some parts of Africa, and of the island of Borneo, and the chimpanzee has hitherto been found only in Africa, and a few parts of Asia.

Neither of the animals have been often conveyed alive into Europe. A chimpanzee was exhibited in London in the year 1698, and another in the year 1738; and, in the course of the last century, three or four were, at different times, brought into France. There was a pair of these animals in the Leverian museum; but they were so young when they died, that they afforded a very imperfect representation of the species to which they belong.

We are informed by Dapper, that the negroes of Africa, by various contrivances, catch these animals when they are young, and tame them for the purpose of rendering them of service in domestic economy. He asserts, but perhaps he will not find many to credit his assertion, that they will do almost as much work as a slave; and that when ordered, they will beat rice in

a mortar, fetch water,* &c. Gassendi, a French philosopher, who flourished at the latter end of the sixteenth century, informs us, that "they will play upon a pipe, or cittern, or other musical instrument; that they will sweep the house, turn the spit, and perform numerous other domestic offices."†

The chimpanzee that was brought into England in the year 1698, had been caught in Angola, and very far up in the country; it was a male, and, at the time it was taken, had a female in company. It was soon rendered tame. The person whose property it was, had a suit of clothes made for it, which, after a little while, it took great delight in. Such part of this dress as the animal could not put on by itself, it would bring in its paws to any person who was near to assist it. This animal died a short time after it came to London; and it was purchased and dissected by Dr. Tyson. He says, that when it came into his hands, it was full of vermin, which he was inclined to believe it had got while it was on board the ship that brought it over.‡

An oran otan, described by M. D'Obsonville, was, when he first saw it, (two months after it had been caught), nearly five feet in height; although it was somewhat savage, yet it indicated rather a degree of wildness and chagrin, than of ill nature, or ferocity. Its mouth was wide, its nose was flat, and the bones of the cheeks were very prominent. Its face was much wrinkled, and the skin of a whitish-brown colour, somewhat mixed with carnation. The hair of its head was five or six inches in length, and brownish; as was also that of the other parts of the body. The hair on the back was considerably thicker, and more close set, than that of the belly.

This animal was a male; it was never seen, by M. D'Obsonville, either to walk or run, in any other than an upright posture. But he was informed, that, in a wild state, the oran otans, in running and leaping, sometimes employ both their hands and feet.

He says that, according to the reports of the Indians, these animals live together in small societies, amongst woods and mountains, which, to mankind, are very difficult of access. They have sometimes, though but seldom, been seen in the Mysore country, and other parts of the East-Indies.

Purchas's account of the oran otan, in a wild state, although written nearly two hundred years ago, is even yet interesting. "This animal is, in all proportions, like a man, but he is more like a giant-creature than a man; for he is very tall, and hath

* Description de l'Afrique, p. 249.

§ Gassendi in vita Piereskii, p. 169.

‡ See a further account in Dr. Shaw's General Zoology, and in Animal Biography, third edition, vol. i. p. 45.

a man's face, is hollow-eyed, and hath long hair upon his brows. His face and ears are without hair, and his hands also. His body is full of hair, but not very thick, and it is of a dunnish colour. He differeth not from a man, but in his legs, for he hath no calf. He goeth always on his legs.

"These creatures sleep in trees, and build shelters from the rain. They feed upon fruits that they find in the woods, and upon nuts; for they eat no kind of flesh. They cannot speak, and have no understanding, no more than a beast. The people of the country, when they travel in the woods, make fires, where they sleep in the night; and in the morning, when they are gone, the pongoes will come and sit about the fire 'till it goeth out; for they have no understanding to lay the wood together. They go, many together, and kill many negroes that travel in the woods. Many times they fall upon the elephants, which come to feed where they be, and so beat them with their chubbed fists, and pieces of wood, that they will run away roaring from them.

"These pongoes are never taken alive, because they are so strong, that ten men cannot hold one of them; but yet the inhabitants take many of their young ones with poisoned arrows. The young pongo hangeth on his mother's belly, with his hands fast clasped about her; so that when the country-people kill any of the females, they take the young one which hangeth fast upon his mother. When they die among themselves, they cover the dead with great heaps of boughs; and these heaps are commonly found in the forests."*

In the island of Borneo, says Le Compte, the oran otan, although he walks only upon two legs, is so extremely swift, that it is very difficult to overtake him. Persons of quality hunt him somewhat in the same manner as they do stags in Europe; and this species of hunting was, in Le Compte's time, a favourite diversion of the king. The same author thus describes an oran otan, which he saw, in a domesticated state, on board a vessel, in the straits of Malacca.

"It is somewhat more than four feet high, and marches naturally on its hind legs, which it bends a little, like those of a dog that has been taught to dance. It uses its arms and hands in the same manner that we do. Its cry is exactly like that of a child; and all its actions so much resemble those of men, and the passions are so lively and significant, that a dumb man could scarcely be able to express his desires better. This animal is very gentle, and exhibits great affection towards all from whom it receives any attentions. One thing is particularly remarkable, that, like a child, it will frequently make a stamping

* Purchas's Pilgrimes, 2 book, ch. 3. sect. 7.

ing noise with its feet, from joy or anger, when it has received or is refused any kind of food that it is fond of.

"Its agility is almost incredible; with the greatest ease and security it runs about amongst the rigging of the vessel, vaulting from rope to rope, and playing a thousand pranks, as if it was delighted by exhibiting its feats for the diversion of the company. Sometimes suspended by one arm, it will poise itself, and then suddenly turn round a rope with nearly as much quickness as a wheel or a sling, that is once put in motion. Sometimes it will slide down one of the ropes; and will again ascend with astonishing agility. There is no posture which this animal cannot imitate, nor any motion which it cannot perform. It has even sometimes been known to fling itself downwards from one rope to another, though at a distance of thirty feet and upwards."

In the year 1759, M. Pallavicini, who held an official situation at Batavia, had in his house two oran otans, a male and a female, which were extremely mild and gentle. They were nearly of human stature, and they imitated very closely the actions of men, particularly with their hands and arms. In some respects they appeared to have a degree of bashfulness and modesty, which are not observable even in savage tribes of the human race; but this, most probably, was a trick that they had been taught. If, for instance, the female was attentively looked at by any person, she would throw herself into the arms of the male, and hide her face in his bosom. Their voice was a kind of cry, resembling that of most other apes and monkies.

An individual of the oran otan species, or a variety nearly allied to it, was caught when young in the interior of Guinea, and carried from thence to Surinam. Allemand, the Dutch professor of natural history, had received many vague and unsatisfactory particulars respecting this animal. These were, however, on the whole, so interesting, that he was induced to write to M. May, a captain in the Dutch naval service, stationed at Surinam, for the purpose of obtaining an authentic account of it. M. May informed him, that when he was on the coast of Guinea, with his vessel, one of the sailors brought on board a small tail-less ape, about six months old, which had been caught in the kingdom of Benin. He soon afterwards sailed for Surinam; and this animal arrived in perfect health at Paramaribo, where the oran otan, above-mentioned, was then living.

He was greatly surprised to find that the two animals were of the same species, and that there was no other difference betwixt them than that of size. This, however, was very considerable, the oran otan being about five feet and a half in height, whilst his animal scarcely exceeded the height of twelve or fourteen inches.

The old oran otan could walk equally well on four and on two feet; it was very strong and powerful. M. May says, that he has seen it take its master, (a stout man) by the middle of the body, raise him with the greatest ease from the ground, and then throw him to the distance of a pace or two. M. May was assured, that this animal one day seized a soldier, who happened carelessly to pass near the tree to which it was chained, and, if its master had not been present, would have actually carried the man up into the tree.

At the time when M. May saw it, it had been in Surinam twenty-one years, and yet it did not appear to have attained its full growth. In confirmation of this, he was informed, that in the preceding year it had increased considerably in height.

A captain of an English vessel offered the owner a hundred guineas for it. This sum, great as it was, he refused; and two days afterwards, the animal died.

In the beginning of July, 1776, a female of this species was brought from the Cape of Good Hope, and deposited in the museum of the prince of Orange. She arrived in good health; M. Allemand soon afterwards went to see her. The keeper had chained her by the neck, to a block of wood, in such manner, as greatly to constrain her movements. M. Allemand, by giving to her sweet-meats, and fruit, soon insinuated herself so far into her good graces, that the animal suffered him, without difficulty, to examine every part of her body.

This animal was so young, that she measured only two feet and a half in height, from the sole of her foot to the top of the head. She was a native of the island of Borneo, whence she had been carried first to Batavia, and afterwards to the Cape of Good Hope. At the latter place, she was kept about twelve months before she was sent to Holland. She died in the museum of the prince of Orange, in the month of January, 1777.

She exhibited no symptoms whatever of ill-nature, and would voluntarily hold out her paw to any person who was inclined to shake hands with her. The food she was chiefly fond of was bread, fruit, carrots, and other roots; and these she would eat without that appearance of voracity, which is common to most of the animals of her tribe. She would eat meat that was cooked, but she was not fond of raw flesh. She would take in one hand a vessel containing water, and, carrying it to her mouth, in the same manner as a child or a man, would tranquilly drink the contents.

Her motions were slow and languid, and she indicated at no time any great degree of vivacity; but in general seemed to be somewhat melancholy. She would frequently play with the blanket, which served her for her bed; and sometimes seemed pleased at tearing it. The usual attitude of this animal, was a

sitting

sitting posture with her knees and thighs elevated: and even when she walked, it was somewhat in the same posture, with her haunches very little raised from the ground. M. Allemand informs us, that she was seldom seen to stand perfectly upright, except when she wanted to seize something that she could not otherwise reach. From these circumstances, he was induced to believe, that oran otans, in a wild state, do not, like men, walk in an upright posture; but that, in the manner of other quadrupeds, they go on all-fours. He considers, that the hand-like conformation of their fore-feet, is given to them for the purpose of enabling them to climb. This animal would often amuse herself in the room, where she was kept, by climbing upon the bars of the window, as high as the length of her chain would allow.

She was so good-tempered, that she would allow any persons to put their fingers even into her mouth, without attempting to bite them. She was fond of company, without any distinction of sex, but always shewed a decided preference to those persons who had the care of her. When they retired, she would sometimes throw herself on the ground, uttering at the same time the most doleful and lamentable cries, as if in despair, and tearing in pieces any linen that happened to be within her reach.*

An oran otan, caught in the kingdom of Assam, a country situated to the eastward of Bengal, was brought to one of the East India company's settlements, and afterwards sent as a present to Colonel Gordon, at that time resident at the Cape of Good Hope. Having, however, been attacked by the scurvy, on board the vessel in which it was conveyed, it only survived for one day its arrival at the Cape.

This animal, (which in its native country has the name of voulock,) was a female. In her general manners, she was exceedingly mild and pleasing, except when any other species of apes happened to be present, to all of which she appeared to have great antipathy. She generally walked in an upright posture; and when, as was more than once observed, she happened to be on a table, on which earthen-ware was placed, she was very careful not to break any thing.

Sometimes she would emit a cry so shrill, that it was necessary for any person who happened to be near her, to stop his ears, in order to avoid being stunned with the sound. She would pronounce, for many times successively, the syllables *yaa-hou*, dwelling with force on the last syllable. Whenever she heard any noise at all resembling this, she would immediately

* See a further account of this interesting animal, in Dr. Shaw's General Zoology, and in Animal Biography, third edition, vol. i. p. 46.

ately set up her cry. During the continuance of her illness, she used frequently to moan almost like an infant.

She was fed with vegetables and milk, and never could be induced to touch any kind of animal food: she would even refuse to eat from a plate, on which there had been meat. Her mode of drinking, was to plunge her fingers into water, and then lick them. She would, of her own accord, cover herself in bed, with pieces of linen: but would not, on any occasion, suffer herself to be clothed.

DELICACY *and* REFINEMENT.

A Celebrated modern author has observed, that though honour, worth and genius, are to be found in persons of the lower order, delicacy and refinement belong exclusively to rank, birth, and education.

Yet these are no less the gift of nature, than genius and honour; and as many instances could be adduced to prove their existence, where fortune has not smiled. Some minds are so gentle from humility, so delicate from feeling, that a court could add nothing ornamental to them but its forms.

Manners, it must be allowed, bespeak associations: an observer, who has seen much of the world, will easily discover in what line of society a person has moved; but he will not confound the condition of life with the mode of thinking, or be long in discriminating between the vulgar mind, and the lowly station.

It has been remarked, that arrogance commonly distinguished those who have raised themselves from obscure origins, and indigent states, to wealth and splendour; but let it be considered, these are not the persons who ever were endowed with delicacy and sentiment; yet endowed with keen sensations of injuries sustained before their elevation, are likely enough to repay,

"The proud man's contumely,"

when they are raised above it, and to revenge individual affront on their fellow-creatures in general.

It is devoutly to be wished, that arrogance were confined to these fortunate favourites of Plutus; but admirals, generals, and peers, afford instances of the same characteristic; the fact is, any situation to which power is annexed, has a tendency to swell the human heart; and when success is added to ambition, few have evinced superiority of soul, sufficient to bear their faculties with meekness.

Where delicacy and refinement predominate, it is very rarely that riches are attained; whatever enlarges ideas, polishes taste,

and inspires sentiment, will check the means of acquiring them; such minds will not submit to the drudgery and toil, to the mortifications and rebuffs, which are inevitable in a close pursuit, where there are so many competitors. The possessor of these qualities,

"Not obvious, not obtrusive,"

prefers rather to live and die in obscurity—

Nec vixit male
Qui natus moriensque fefellit. HOR.

Such a commerce with the world as is necessary to procure wealth, naturally hardens; and, out of a court, the effect will appear. There, it does not; for the people who attend it, may be equally ill natured, envious, and revengeful; every body must be polite; nor let it be supposed, a court is without its benefit in society, which confines so many bad passions within the precincts of the best thing in the world after religion—good-breeding.

EXTENSIVE COMMERCE *of* SMYRNA.

[From M'Gill's Travels in Turkey, &c.]

THE commerce of Smyrna is very extensive. It is very seldom that there are in the roads fewer than from fifteen to eighteen ships loading for different countries, and under various colours. Their trade was formerly confined to the Mediterranean and the northern parts of Europe; but now it is nothing rare or surprising to see vessels loading for America, and even for the East-Indies.

In one year, beginning the first of September, and ending the thirty-first of August, sixty vessels arrived in Smyrna with rich cargoes from the following ports, viz. from London seven, from Triest eighteen, from Venice four, from Leghorn fifteen, from Holland three, from Marseilles eight, and from America five; besides an immense number from different ports in Turkey, of which no regular account is taken, and several also from the Russian ports in the Black Sea, which are not mentioned in the list shewn to me. I will at some future opportunity give you an account of the cargoes of the sixty vessels. In the same year, ninety-three ships were loaded with the produce of the country for different parts of Europe and America. Twelve were for London, forty-one for Trieste, seven for Leghorn, five for Venice, seven for Holland, eighteen for Marseilles, and three for America; the last three carried little

little but specie and opium, and it is believed went first to Canton, and from thence by Cape Horn to America. Many cargoes of fruit, wine, and drugs, are annually shipped for the Black Sea, which like the imports from that quarter are not enumerated; several of Valonea, and grain, are likewise sent on account of the Smyrna merchants from other ports on the coast, by ships which go from Smyrna in order to bring them, from the small port of Scala Nuova alone, upwards of twenty ships' load of beans are sent annually by these gentlemen to Spain, Malta, and Egypt. When I can get the list of imports finished, I will also give you a list of the exports.

Smyrna has, with the principal mercantile towns in Europe, a regular exchange, which may be with propriety considered as forming a part of the commerce of the city, as it affords a wide field for speculation. I may at some future period, give you an account of the exchanges for several years, and if possible, another of the consumption for one year of European articles, with their aggregate prices; at present, I am not sufficiently acquainted with the trade to furnish you with them.

Instance of heroic Courage of Mr. Worth, a Midshipman, and Son of the late Admiral Worth.

AT the latter end of last year, or early in this, Mr. Worth, with five more Englishmen, attempted to make his escape from the fort of Bitche, in France, by means of a rope made from their sheets. The height of that part of the fort from whence they descended, is near 96 feet perpendicular. Five succeeded, but the sheet unfortunately broke, and precipitated this brave lad near 30 feet, by which he broke his thigh. Such was his courage, although in excruciating pain, that he remained at the foot of the fort from seven o'clock in the evening 'till eight the next morning. While he lay in torture, the night patrole passed close to him; in the morning, they found him still lying in the ditch, and asked him why he had not called for assistance? His answer was—"What, and betray my comrades? No—thank God! they have a night's start of you." He recovered, and, immediately on his recovery, according to the French humanity, was put into a dungeon for several weeks. This same young man made the same desperate attempt two years before, with six others; but at the moment of the rope being fixed to the bar of the souteraine, an officer tumbled over the rope; this gave the alarm. Instead of retreating into the souteraine, they all descended on the rope, which broke about seven feet from the post, and they fell near

100 feet right perpendicular. Lieutenant Essel was killed, and the other five fell into a small tank of about two feet water, which broke their fall, but they were all senseless, and it was many weeks before they recovered; immediately on which they were all confined, for three months, in the depth of winter, in dungeons.

REMARKABLE COIN.

A Roman peasant lately found in a field, at Monterose, a coin, which is supposed to be the most ancient that is extant. It is thought to have been coined by Servius Tullus, the sixth king of the Romans, who died in the year of Rome 218. It is consequently 2330 years old. Its weight is 11oz. 17dwts. and its diameter two inches ten lines. On one side it has the head of Minerva, seen in full face, with the helmet, *(pallade galeata)* and on the other an ox, a small I, which indicates the first of the Roman figures. On the exergue is inscribed, in large characters, Roma. This type is that described by Pliny, Plutarch, and Varro, and which is attributed by those writers to the time of Servius Tullus. In Cardinal Zelada's collection of coins there is one, the type of which resembles that of the piece recently discovered; but the antiquaries who have examined it, have found that it was not of the weight which those coins must necessarily have had. That which has just been discovered is of the full weight of a Roman pound; for the difference of 7 dwts. must be ascribed to the alteration produced by time. The characters of the word Roma, are of the same form as those of Etruria and Samnium. The metal is very pure, and has a considerable analogy to the Egyptian copper of the coins of the Ptolemies.

RICHARD WHITTINGTON.

AMONG the returns of chantries, and the appropriation of money for religious purposes in the 2d of Edward the 6th, 1548, was the following by the mercers' company.

" Paide yerely for the obitte of Master Whittington, for spicest brede with the spices and whyte bunes and butter, with other thinges thereto apperteyninge, xli^{s}. viij^{d}. For perres, apples, pyskattes, chese, ale and wyne, and the butteler's fee, with other thinges, xxviij^{s}. viij^{d}. For waxe and ringing of bells ij^{s}. To the poor men for to offer xiij^{d}. To the lord maior of London vj^{s}. viij^{d}. To the thre wardens of the mercers iij^{li}. And to the rent warden xl^{s}. To the clarke of the mercers vj^{s}. viij^{d}. And as for priestes and clarkes we never paid none . . . . . ix^{li}. vj^{s}. viij^{d}."

Answer, by J. Kerby, of Helston, to R. Trewavas's Rebus, inserted July 24.

THE initials rightly brought to mind,
The line called DOWDY you will find.

Answer, by J. W. of Charmouth, to J. Kerby's Rebus, inserted September 25.

YORK-HEELS with shoes are often worn,
Which is the answer I return.

☞ A similar answer has been received from H. B. of Bridgewater.

Answer, by J. French, at Evershot School, to H. Ellis's Charade, inserted the 2d of October.

WITH any one I'd bet a crown,
That DUNSTABLE's the noted town.

*** Similar answers have been received from J. C. jun. of Ottery; John Woodman, of North Curry; W. Petherick, of St. Austell; J. Kerby, Helston; J. W. of Charmouth; S. Tucker, of Bugford; J. Medland, St. Bude; N. Colwell, Knackershole; W. B. of Tannton; G. W. Jones, and J. W. Jones, of North Petherton; J. M. Carveth, near Mevagissey; C. Caines, of Lion's-gate; Sirron; T. Pearse, of Chard; C. Crews, of Newton Abbot; W. Kent, near Camelford; J. Ball, at Evershot school; and J. Hurd, of Honiton.

A CHARADE, *by S. Duck, of South Petherton.*

AN interjection to a metal join,
An ancient language you will then define.

A CHARADE, *by J. Treadwin, of Exeter.*

HAIL! Britain hail! for courage oft renown'd;
Beauty and wit in thee are also found;
Let but thy youths approach, we soon shall see
How soon my first the British maid will be.

Then let him softly tell his amorous tale,
And strive with melting speeches to prevail;
Quickly my second o'er her cheek will rise,
In blooming grace, which every art defies.

And you, with ills of any sort beset,
Among my whole your dearest friends you get.
It should be so—alas! we often find
No one to pity or relieve inclin'd.

☞ *An extract from the poems of Phillis Wheatley, a negro servant, was given, many years ago, in the Weekly Miscellany, and it is, therefore, deemed unnecessary to insert another.*

*** *Correspondents are expected to pay the postage of their letters.*

ERRATUM.—*In B. Carvosso's question, inserted November 13, page 917, the greater diameter of the measure is stated to be* 10,6 *instead of what it should have been,* 14,6 *inches.*

POETRY.

A NOVEMBER DAY.

A Heavy gloom obscures the azure sky,
On the chill air see drizzling showers fly;
Yon vapour in the cottage chimney bred,
That gaily lifts on high its curling head
When sunshine gilds the day, now thro' the vale
Sullenly creeps, oppress by winter's gale:
The naked trees most comfortless appear,
While ev'ry branch weeps with a pearly tear.

The feather'd race desert the open plain,
Anxious, near man's abode, the precious crumbs to gain,
Which the good housewife, provident of all,
Kindly bestows at gentle pity's call:
Each hill, view'd thro' the magnifying mist,
Appears a mountain, whose high brows resist
The scowling clouds, while the green vale below
Seems quite a sea, with waves of fleecy snow:
While, like to masts of ships becalm'd, the trees
Erect their heads, unruffled by a breeze.

Thus to the mind delusive views are given,
'Till reason, best and fairest gift of Heaven,
Dispels the mental gloom with piercing ray,
And, like a glorious sun, chases the mists away.

MARY LLOYD.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

LOCAL ATTACHMENT.

WRITTEN IN KENT, IN THE YEAR 1808.

Me
Fortuna omnipotens et ineluctabile fatum
Hic posuere locis.—VIRG.

'TIS sweet to wander, KENT, amid thy vales,
With magic scenery crown'd. Thy swelling hills,
And far withdrawing lawns, enchant the eye,
And force unwilling praise e'en from the mind
Whom rural beauty charms not. Still at eve,
Or bursting morn, the oft frequented walk
Presents new beauties, for in every view
The landscape teems with wonders; nor unheard
Are Philomela's melodies. No step
Is taken undelighted; here the hut
Of woodland innocence peeps out, half hid
Amid the foliage of the stately oak,
The pride of Britain. There the thriving hop
Throws gracefully its elegant festoons
Around its planter's dwelling; like a vast
And well-trimm'd garden smiles the circe around,

Owning

Owning the cultivator's skilful hand, and rich
With verd'rous crops, that crown his utmost hope.

Yet these proud scenes,
Tho' highly beautiful, and in themselves
Unrivall'd, want the heartfelt, nameless charm
That HOME can throw around Devonia's plains,
And make her summits smile. Tho' bleak thy torrs,
Thy moors all cheerless, and thy climes unfair
With rains Atlantic; be thy lawns unblest
With Cantia's rank luxuriance, thou art dear,
Still dear to me. I own the secret pow'r
Of local prejudice; and he whose mind
Feels not attachment to his native soil,
Who never ponders on his once-lov'd home,
And to whose view the limner fancy paints
No picture of his native hills and dales,
Is to our nature's noblest feelings lost.

Plymouth-Dock. N. T. C.

MIDNIGHT.

[From Blacket's Poems.]

THE wearied hind is now at rest,
And the ember'd fire decays,
While the cricket, latest guest,
Cherups o'er the dying blaze.

Slowly rising o'er the hill,
Cynthia bright the prospect cheers;
And her figure on the rill,
Lovely as herself appears.

Morpheus now has banish'd care,
And each breast enjoys repose,
Save yon wretched, love-lorn fair,
Breathing to the night her woes.

Swift the silver'd scene is chang'd,
Tempests dark obscure the sight;
Clouds of heaven's artillery ranged,
Muster on the brow of night.

Dreadful howls the raging blast,
Furious o'er creation driven,
While the atheist stares aghast,
Trembling at offended Heaven!

Wildly foams the surge; and hark!
To the drowning seaman's groan;
As the billow-beaten bark,
Plunging, sinks for ever down!

Awful silence is restor'd,
And the hurricane is pass'd;
Quiet sleep the winds which roar'd
O'er the desolated waste!

Gracious now the orbs of light
Brighten up the delug'd plains,
And the bell, from yonder height,
Tells that tranquil midnight reigns.